

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on October 23, 2003 and on November 19, 2003 with the undersigned. In both interviews, the Examiner acknowledged that the compositions of the present invention have increased biodegradability. Claim 1 has been amended to note in the preamble that the claim is directed to compositions with "increased biodegradability" and which contain "an additive which increases and maintains a pH of 4 or more for a solution." Also, claim 17 has also been amended to recite "an additive which increases and maintains a pH of 4 or more for a solution." Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 1-6 and lines 10-21 and in original claims 1 and 17. *See In re Gardner*, 177 USPQ 396, 397 (CCPA 1973) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and (l). Further, in order to correct a grammatical error and for the sake of clarity, claim 15 has also been amended to include the conjunction "and." This amendment is formal in nature and does not narrow the scope of the claims in any manner.

In view of the foregoing, favorable action on the merits, including withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of all the claims, is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact one of the undersigned attorneys.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent to the United States Postal Service as by facsimile to fax number (703) 872-9711 on November 19, 2003.

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Respectfully submitted,

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